

CONSTRUCTION OF SAMPLING WORKS.

FEBRUARY 20, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DINGLEY, from the Committee on Ways and Means, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 2916.]

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2916) to facilitate collecting of revenue, to provide for construction of sampling works, etc., beg to report:

Your committee have had the same under consideration, and find that, in the opinion of the Treasury Department, the bill is of a character to facilitate the collection of revenue, which opinion accompanies this bill. The committee therefore recommend that the bill be passed with the following amendments:

At the end of line 6, section 2, add: "In no instance shall a less portion than one-fifth of any importation of ores imported at ports where sampling works are established be sampled and assayed."

At the end of line 9, section 3, add: "*Provided*, That the expenditure authorized by this act shall not exceed forty-five thousand dollars."

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., February 6, 1896.

SIR: Replying to the inquiries contained in your letter of the 30th ultimo, in relation to House bill 2916, which provides for the construction and equipment of sampling works for the sampling and assaying of imported silver ores, and other ores containing lead, I have the honor to inform you that I am of opinion that the establishment of such works as those referred to in the bill under consideration at El Paso, Tex., Northport, Wash., and Bonners Ferry, Idaho, will furnish all the facilities required at present; and that it is probable that to purchase the necessary land to construct and equip works thereon, or to lease suitable buildings and equipment for the sampling and assaying of ores, and to provide for the compensation for one year of the employees whose services will be necessary in connection with such works, \$45,000 will be required.

It is deemed advisable to invite your attention to the fact that paragraph 165 of the tariff act of August, 1894, provides for the assessment of a duty of three-fourths of 1 cent per pound on ores containing lead, according to sample and assay at the point of entry, the method of sampling and assaying to be that usually adopted for commercial purposes by public sampling works in the United States. This Department has no facilities for a compliance with the law referred to. Under the authority contained in the act approved March 2, 1895, providing for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, proposals were invited for furnishing such facilities. But two responses were made, both being for ores imported into the same district, and both were rejected, for the reason that the prices charged for the work were regarded as excessive.

In the opinion of this Department the erection of sampling works by the Government should be authorized, as otherwise it will be impossible to enforce the provisions of the act of 1894, above referred to.

The views herein expressed were communicated on the 20th ultimo to the chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate, in reply to a request from him for an expression of the opinion of this Department on Senate bill 1218, providing for the construction and equipment of sampling works for the sampling and assaying of silver ores and other ores containing lead.

Respectfully, yours,

S. WIKE, *Acting Secretary.*

Hon. NELSON DINGLEY, Jr.,

Chairman Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., January 20, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 8th instant, with which was inclosed, for an expression of my views thereon, Senate bill 1218, providing for the construction and equipment of sampling works for the sampling and assaying of imported silver ores and other ores containing lead.

Paragraph 165 of the tariff act of August, 1894, provides for the assessment of a duty of three-fourths of 1 cent per pound on ores containing lead, according to sample and assay at the port of entry, the method of sampling and assaying to be that usually adopted for commercial purposes by public sampling works in the United States. The Department has no facilities for a compliance with the law referred to, although proposals for furnishing such facilities were invited under the authority contained in the act approved March 2, 1895, providing for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896. But two responses were made, both being for ores imported into the same district; both were rejected for the reason that the prices charged for the work were regarded as excessive.

In the opinion of this Department the erection of sampling works by the Government should be authorized, as otherwise it will be impossible to enforce the provisions of the act of 1894 above referred to. I inclose herewith an amendment as to the minimum amount of the ore imported to be sampled, which, in effect, defines the proportion used for sampling by the commercial method. It is suggested also that the word "party" in line 6 of section 3 of the bill be omitted, and the word "port" substituted in lieu thereof.

I believe the bill, as amended, should be enacted into law.

Respectfully, yours,

S. WIKE, *Acting Secretary.*

Hon. JUSTIN S. MORRILL,

Chairman Committee on Finance, United States Senate.

Proposed amendment to Senate bill No. 1218, providing for the construction and equipment of sampling works for the sampling and assaying of imported ores containing lead:

Insert after the word "ports," in section 2 of said bill, as follows:

"In no instance shall a less portion than one-fifth of any importation of ores imported at ports where sampling works are established be sampled and assayed."